

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1380

By Thompson

A RESOLUTION to honor Leonard's Pit Barbecue of Memphis and former owner, Dan Brown, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize an outstanding restaurant that has earned the loyalty and accolades of Tennesseans for 100 years; and

WHEREAS, Memphis is, without a doubt, home to some of the best barbecue restaurants in the world, and Leonard's Pit Barbecue of that fair city is certainly one of them; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1922 by Leonard Heuberger in South Memphis, Leonard's has served tens of millions of barbecue sandwiches to hungry, but ultimately satisfied, customers over the past 100 years and is now the oldest active barbecue restaurant in Memphis, having been continuously open since its founding; and

WHEREAS, Dan Brown began working at Leonard's Pit Barbecue in 1962 as a high school student, and, excluding his tenure in the United States Army, he has never worked anywhere except Leonard's; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Dan Brown purchased the restaurant, and he continued Leonard's legacy of great food quality and responsive customer service for twenty-nine years; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Brown decided to sell the restaurant in 2021 and retire at the age of seventy-five after more than fifty years as an employee or owner of Leonard's Pit Barbecue; and

WHEREAS, Wendy McCrory, owner of Gus's World Famous Fried Chicken in Memphis, purchased Leonard's Barbecue from Mr. Brown and committed to keeping the longtime

professional staff of Leonard's and continuing the restaurant's high quality standards and superb customer service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Leonard's Pit Barbecue for its longstanding service to the City of Memphis and for contributing greatly to the food culture of Memphis and West Tennessee and pay tribute to longtime former owner Dan Brown, as we look forward to the new owner continuing Leonard's great food and great service as she ushers the restaurant into its second century of operation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.